

AUGUST 6, 2020
VOLUME 39 - NUMBER 32
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KYLE RODRIGUEZ-HUDSON AND
TAEVIAN MONTGOMERY BOLDS
OF TRANSPONDER

RODRIGUEZ-HUDSON WILL BE A
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MARCH FOR BLACK TRANS LIVES
ON SATURDAY, AUG. 8

Photo by Todd Cooper

**MARCHING
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with BLACK UNITY to
shed light on the injustices
minority trans people face

PAGE 9

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letters

SPD ASSAULTED PROTESTERS

For most of my life I have believed that police are a force for good in our community. I have recently appreciated their assistance when I had car trouble on I-105 and with a shooting incident that occurred near my home. In each circumstance, the officers acted with courtesy and respect.

Lately, I have engaged in several peaceful protests in support of the Black Lives Matter movement to promote racial equality for Black, Indigenous and people of color in our society. I had not witnessed any acts of violence or destruction during my participation until the July 29 march in Thurston, when Springfield police in riot gear surged beyond their barricade and assaulted and arrested several protesters.

Some were dragged behind the barricade during their arrest. One of the leaders of the protest was seen having his head smashed into the concrete by the closed fist of an officer after he had already been effectively subdued. I also found myself helping to care for a young woman whose face was covered in blood after having been punched by a Springfield Police Department officer. This kind of violent and assaultive behavior in response to a peaceful protest is extremely upsetting to me and calls into question whether SPD is truly a force for good in our community.

Andrew Jensen, RN
Eugene

By the way, I am a gun owner.

Charles W. Hunt
Eugene

FIGHT TRUMP'S FASCISM

As a military veteran, I still live by the oath I swore to protect and defend the Constitution.

When Donald Trump tried invoking the Insurrection Act to quell civil unrest with U.S. troops, my fears about Trump became reality. Fortunately, his threats created crises within the top military brass — his plan lost momentum.

However, the recent executive order, implementation of Operation Legend and the use of “acting” officials, such as acting secretary Chad Wolf, circumvent the need for the Insurrection Act. This effectively outsources the “duties” of suppressing dissent to Homeland Security (DHS) contractors. Through legal loopholes, DHS repurposes agents from multiple federal agencies into “rapid deployment teams.” They are accountable only to President Donald Trump.

Trump refuses diplomacy with Americans protesting systematic racism and police brutality. By unleashing paramilitary forces he overrides state and local governments. It's more than campaign antics, it's textbook fascism ushered through eroded democratic institutions. To assume otherwise is to ignore deafening alarms.

On July 15 in Portland, unidentifiable paramilitary forces violently detained peaceful protesters. American citizens were snatched off the streets, restrained without cause and taken away in unmarked vans to unknown locations. This was an abduction. Where else will this happen? What's next?

As a veteran, I vehemently oppose authoritarianism. I demand accountability for the actions of the DHS, and I demand it be carried out in public view. Furthermore, the House must pass legislation to invalidate this executive order and condition the Homeland Security appropriations bill to close the exploited loopholes and bring these extrajudicial abuses of power to a halt. I did not serve my country for our civil liberties to be suspended, for U.S. citizens to be fair game for abduction by the federal government.

Steven Kiernan
Eugene

NO RIGHT TO INTIMIDATE

I have gone to a variety of demonstrations for 55 years, beginning with a sympathy march for the folks at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma in the spring of 1965 and continuing through the anti-Vietnam war era. On Saturday, July 25, in Eugene, I went to the demonstration at the federal building during the evening feeling considerable sympathy for folks in Portland. It was the first time in 55 years that I have been at a demonstration where firearms, both long guns and pistols, were on display and used to try to intimidate. It was also, in 55 years, the first time I have ever been at a demonstration where a shot was fired from a firearm.

This situation is a direct result of Oregon's open carry laws with regard to firearms.

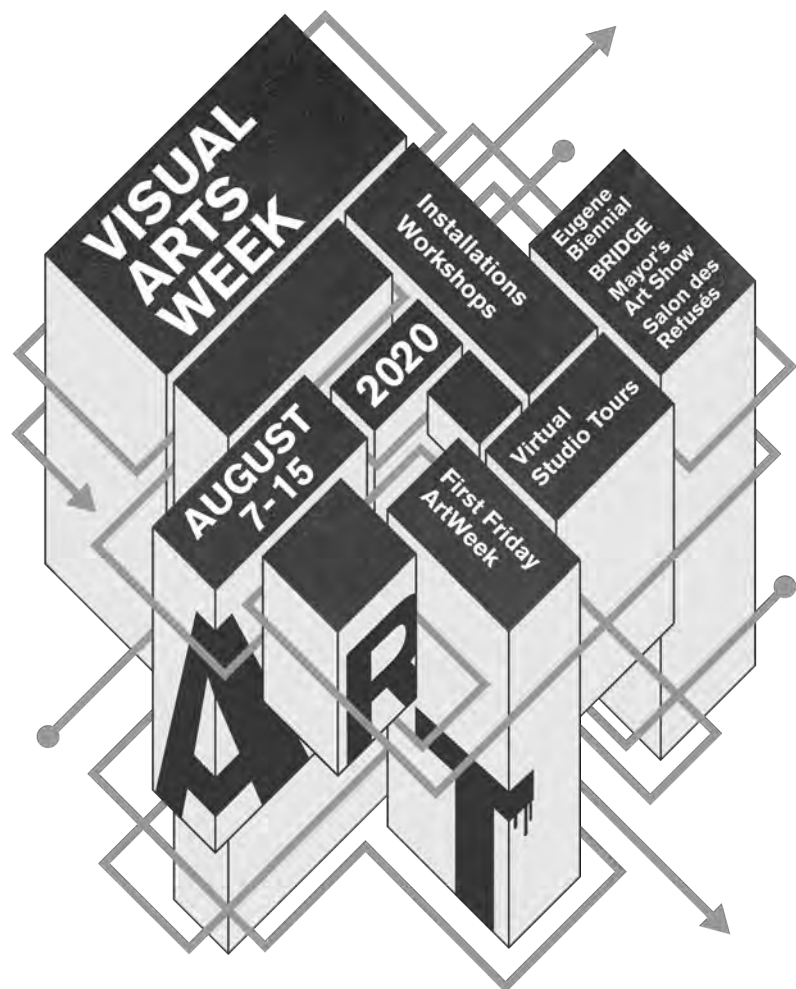
The open carry laws are in direct conflict with First Amendment rights to demonstrate. In fact, large numbers of folks who would like to express their disagreement with current policies will not attend a rally at which firearms are displayed and used. They will act in fear for their lives. The display and use of firearms has a clear chilling and discouraging effect upon First Amendment rights. Oregon needs to repeal its open carry laws. First Amendment rights have clear preference.

SHARE THE WEALTH

Ronald Reagan became president on a platform emphasizing “trickle-down economics,” reasoning that if the rich got richer, then wealth would “trickle down” for the rest of us. Despite being fully discredited, this ridiculous idea just keeps going. Indeed, the top 0.1 percent of the population now has as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent — a grotesque disparity not seen since 1937!

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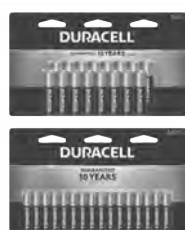
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Act for Change

IT'S TIME FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE, HUMANE APPROACH TO ADDICTION

CCOVID-19 is on the rise in Oregon. People need access to health care now more than ever, and for people with addictions, COVID-19 is a pandemic experienced on top of a health crisis. Oregonians are responding to overlapping public health emergencies — the addiction crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and health disparities stemming from structural racism.

Access to medical care, drug treatment, addiction medicine, overdose prevention and recovery services has been severely impacted by the pandemic. Providers are unable to maintain prior levels of care and struggle to maintain even a minimum stock of overdose prevention supplies throughout the community. Meanwhile, Oregon continues to criminalize drug use, which drives drug users underground, where they are more likely to use drugs alone and overdose.

That's why White Bird Clinic is a strong supporter of the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act, a statewide ballot measure that would change Oregon's current system of arresting, jailing, prosecuting and paroling simple drug possession cases.

Instead of punishments and arrests, people with addiction would get better access to treatment and recovery services. The act would reclassify and reduce simple misdemeanor drug possession offenses, shifting the paradigm from public safety to public health. The measure does not legalize drugs.

The measure would make more treatment and recovery services available to those who need it and want it, in the Eugene-Springfield area and across the state. It also has the potential to reduce the social stigma around addiction; if addiction is a health issue, not a crime, there will be less shame and shaming, and people can more easily seek help. Those who want and need treatment would be able to get it — not just those who have money and the right insurance plan.

The act is paid for with revenue from Oregon's existing state marijuana tax and from law enforcement savings from reduced arrests. Marijuana tax revenue above \$45 million would expand drug treatment, recovery and stable housing services.

Using marijuana tax revenue to more fully fund a robust human services network that provides health care-based approaches to addiction will result in better outcomes and cost savings for the community. We've already seen just how effective a health-based approach to addiction is; our CAHOOTS Program (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) provides mobile crisis intervention 24/7 in the Eugene-Springfield metro area. CAHOOTS offers a broad range of services, including support for people with addictions through its linkage with White Bird's Chrysalis Behavioral Health Outpatient Service, which offers services for substance abuse and mental health care through individual and group counseling, drug education, DUII and acupuncture treatment.

The Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act builds upon successful models like this one. When people are offered treatment over jail, they are given a real opportunity to recover and get their lives back on track.

We need this measure now more than ever. More individuals, including those who have never previously had addictions, are turning to substances to help cope with the pandemic and its fallout. Oregon has the fourth-highest addiction rate in the country, according to recent data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association. Oregon ranked 49 out of 50 states in treatment options available for people struggling with addiction.

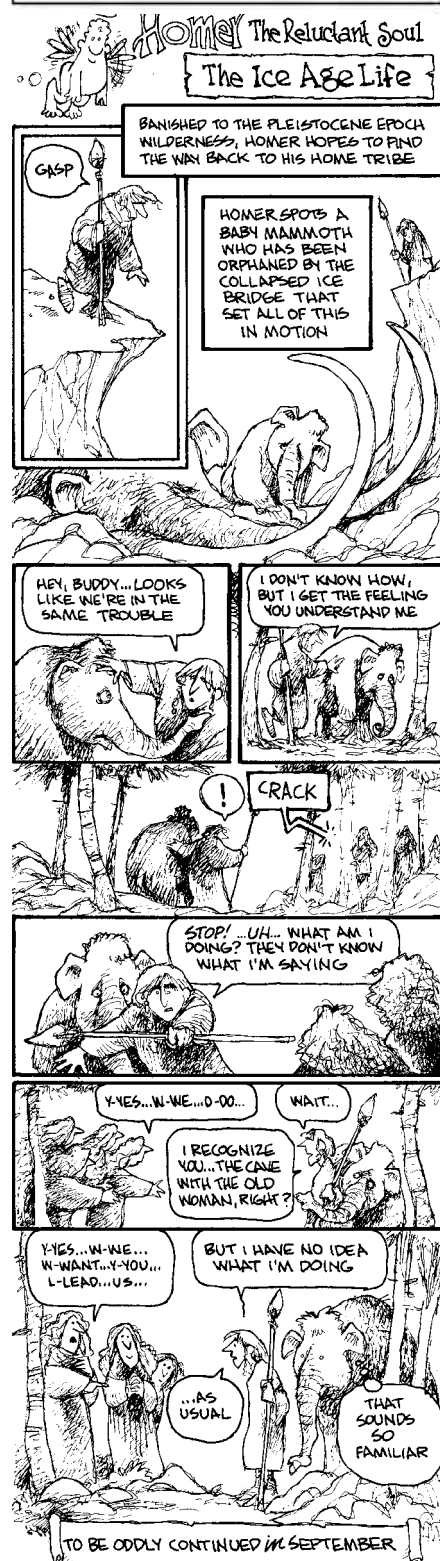
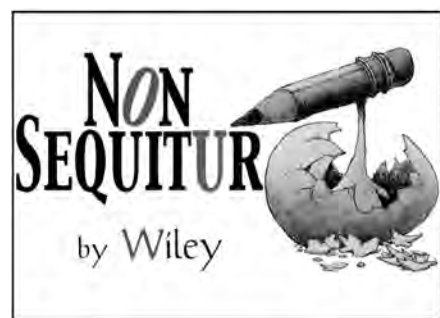
Across the nation we're seeing an increase in depression, anxiety and suicide calls. The economic, mental and emotional fallout of the pandemic fuels the stress and anxiety that so many of us are feeling right now. At a time when less addiction and recovery services are available,

more Oregonians need them. The initiative can help make these critically needed services more accessible to more people.

We strongly recommend that voters support the passage of this crucial initiative. See YesOnIP44.org to learn more.

Chris Hecht is the executive coordinator of White Bird Clinic. White Bird Clinic operates multiple locations in Eugene, providing compassionate, humanistic health care and supportive services to individuals in our community, so everyone receives the care they need.

Access to
medical care,
drug treatment,
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overdose prevention
and recovery
services has been
severely impacted
by the pandemic.



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EUGENE CAN CHART THE COURSE TO A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE

The City of Eugene is formulating a **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN** designed to lower our carbon emissions to a safe level for climate stability. This will be a challenge for our community that requires **many changes from business as usual**.

One proposal is to **ban the expansion of natural gas into new homes and businesses**. Northwest Natural, the local gas utility, opposes this solution. However, there are many good reasons why it is necessary.

FACING THE FACTS SQUARELY

This proposal will not affect current gas users in Eugene. It begins a fair and logical transition away from burning fossil fuels.

The **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN** will recognize the out-sized negative effects caused by the gas that Northwest Natural supplies. Electricity produces about **2%** of Eugene's carbon emissions. However, gas produces **25%**.

Eugene has true low-carbon energy choices. High efficiency electric heat pumps for water/space heating, electric induction ovens/cooktops, rooftop and community solar arrays are all great options.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER: EUGENE DESERVES A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Collaborating to address the climate emergency fairly for all our citizens is the most important work of our time.

Eugene's elected officials and EWEB can plan the transition away from gas without undermining affordability, reliability or choice. As community members, we must make it clear that we expect nothing less.

We encourage you to share your thoughts with city and utility decision-makers by emailing:

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Northwest Natural President & CEO:

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Natural gas is not benign. It's methane, which traps much more heat than carbon dioxide. The gas distribution system inevitably leaks from drilling to combustion, sending methane into the atmosphere.

Natural gas is mostly obtained by fracking, which has many harmful effects on the environment.

Fumes from gas stoves and furnaces degrade indoor air quality.



**350
EUGENE**



letters

Add the fact that average Black families have one tenth the wealth of average white families (unchanged since 1950) and our racial tensions are no surprise.

Marianne Williamson suggests giving \$500 billion over 10 years to organizations working on behalf of African Americans as a way to repay and atone for their ancestors' having been kidnapped and enslaved. No doubt many Republicans saw this idea as a flagrant waste of money, but since the pandemic those same financially prudent "leaders" have printed several trillion dollars out of thin air and handed it over to the wealthy. The rest of us get \$1,200. No doubt there is a glaring element of racism in the U.S., and Black lives do matter, but redistributing the wealth would work wonders — or more accurately, reversing the upward redistribution of wealth that has gone on since Reagan.

Robert Bolman
Eugene

IF 'ALL LIVES' MATTERED, YOU'D BE VEGAN

I am heartened to see some folks standing up for the real unspoken group by declaring "All Lives Matter." Yet they don't look like any of the vegans or vegetarians I know, and I'm puzzled why they don't wear masks, are so obsessed with the American flag and are angry with the Black Lives Matter protesters.

I may be reading too much into this, but their placards seem to indicate that the only way to save the planet is to end our anthropocentric (human centered) world view, mend our relationship with all creatures, great and small, preserve their habitat and finally move toward an Earth community.

Scott Fife
Eugene

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EPD, City Sued for Protest Response

PROTESTERS ARE SUING THE CITY AND EUGENE POLICE FOR GASSING, SHOOTING AND ARRESTING THEM IN A WAY THAT ALLEGEDLY VIOLATED THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS

By Jade Yamazaki Stewart

Tyler Hendry and other Black Lives Matter protesters were walking on Broadway at about 11 pm on May 31 when another group of protesters ran into them, fleeing from rubber bullets, caustic gas and Eugene Police Department officers.

One protester ran full-barrel into Hendry's friend, Joshua McKnight, slamming him to the concrete and knocking off his glasses. Hendry stooped over to find McKnight's glasses. As he reached down to grab them, he was also wiped off his feet, by what he says were multiple EPD officers. In a live stream of the incident, Hendry can be heard yelling, "I'm peaceful bro, I'm peaceful!" as he's put in handcuffs.

He and other protesters were arrested for curfew violation and booked for a night in the Lane County Jail. They were told of the 11 pm citywide curfew enacted that night by EPD at 10:57 pm over a loudspeaker. Hendry says he was complying with EPD orders to leave the area and was on his way home when he was arrested.

The Civil Liberties Defense Center filed a civil rights lawsuit against the city of Eugene and EPD July 31, on behalf of Hendry and five other protesters, for violating their rights during May 31 BLM protests.

The suit alleges EPD shot protesters with chemical and impact munitions without a lawful reason, injuring protesters and destroying their property. It alleges EPD arrested or attacked protesters for violating the city curfew enacted May 31 while they were not in the curfew zone. The suit says these actions violated the First, Fourth and Fourteenth amendments to the Constitution.

"I'm moving forward with this civil suit because I want police to be held accountable, and I want police to be looked at with the same lens as civilians are," Hendry says. After the incident, he redoubled his protesting efforts and is a leader of local BLM group Black Unity.

The curfew violation charges against Hendry and at least three other protesters arrested by EPD that night were dismissed by the city prosecutor the week of July 23. The city prosecutor did not comment before press time on why charges weren't filed.

The suit follows another filed by CLDC against the city and members of EPD for violating *Eugene Weekly* reporter Henry Houston's rights on May 31 by shooting him with impact and chemical munitions even though he clearly identified himself as press.

In the second suit, plaintiffs request that each of them get a jury trial, that they be awarded money for damages and for attorney fees they've incurred as a result of their arrests and that police officers involved in the incidents described in the lawsuit be punished.

The plaintiffs in the suit are Hendry, Hasheem Boudjerada, Kelsie Leith-Bowden, Damon Cochran-Salinas, Erin Grady and Kirtis Ranesbottom. The defendants are the city of Eugene, City Manager Sarah Medary, EPD officers Samuel Stott and Bo Rankin and other unnamed EPD officers involved in allegedly illegal police action on May 31.

The suit says that the city of Eugene as a municipal



TYLER HENDRY

Photo by Bob Williams

organization is responsible for the actions of EPD officers on a policy level. It alleges Medary is responsible for making the final call on imposing an unconstitutional curfew. It also alleges defendants Stott and Rankin arrested plaintiffs Boudjerada and Grady in an unlawful way. The other unnamed defendants in the suit are EPD officers who allegedly shot munitions illegally at peaceful protesters and residences on May 31, whose names still have not been discovered by CLDC.

Asked for comment, EPD spokesperson John Hanke-meier told *EW* that the department does not talk about pending litigation. The city of Eugene and Medary did not respond to a request for comment by press time. In a press conference at the time, EPD Chief Chris Skinner said he had to prepare for the May 31 protest "looking through the lens of what occurred Friday night," when rioters smashed windows and looted from downtown businesses on May 29.

Hendry's account was part of one of three main instances described in the lawsuit, which occurred near 14th and Patterson Street. The complaint says that Hendry and other protesters were shot at with impact and chemical munitions. It says they were arrested unlawfully, because citywide curfew was an infraction of First Amendment rights and was unconstitutional and because protesters weren't given the ability to comply with the curfew.

Hendry says the EPD was unnecessarily violent during his arrest, and says he thinks EPD was trying to make an example of protesters as a scare tactic.

"Honestly, in my opinion, it felt like it was kidnapping," he says.

Grady says she was unaware of the citywide curfew when she was arrested.

"No one told us that there was a curfew, and we had no way of knowing that there was," she says. The citywide

curfew that night started at 11 pm but was announced at 11:08 on the EPD Facebook page.

Grady was arrested close to 11 pm.

In another instance described in the complaints, plaintiff Kelsie Leith-Bowden was allegedly shot multiple times by impact munitions while peacefully protesting near Olive Street and 10th Avenue at about 8:20 pm.

Photos included in the complaint show a red-purple bruise about three inches wide and bloody lacerations on Leith-Bowden's right hip.

The complaint alleges EPD officers kept shooting at Leith-Bowden as she ran away and includes a photo of a bruise on the back of her leg where she was allegedly shot by more impact munitions.

"I'm joining this suit not only because I was harmed, but also because I refuse to allow a rogue police state to instill fear in the hearts of those who would hold it accountable," she says in a press release provided by CLDC.

In the final instance described by the lawsuit, EPD officers allegedly shot at people and property at the Campbell Club and Lorax student residences near 17th and Alder Street. The complaint says EPD officers shot chemical munitions at people outside the residences and directly at the buildings without legal justification, breaking the hinge of a door and filling the buildings with gas, injuring the residents.

Hendry says he hopes the results of this case will shine a spotlight on EPD's actions and help sway public opinion toward defunding the police department, one of the goals of his activism group Black Unity.

"So many people refuse to believe that all of this shit happens within EPD," he says. "If the community can see for certain that EPD is guilty of these accusations, maybe that would sway the rest of the community who is not believing to join this side, and to join the fight." ■

Meet the New Press

INCREASE OF PROTESTS HAS LEAD TO THE GROWTH OF INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS
CAPTURING NARRATIVE-CHALLENGING FOOTAGE

By Henry Houston

In 2019, being at a protest was the most dangerous place for a reporter to be in the U.S.

According to the 2019 Press Freedom Tracker report published by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, press were targets of 34 physical attacks

One year and numerous historical moments later, protests will most likely be the most dangerous place for the media again when the nonprofit compiles its 2020 report. Yet a growing number of people at protests from Eugene to Portland — and elsewhere in the U.S. — identify as media as they live stream and write updates from protests.

Live reporting from non-traditional news sources isn't a necessarily new phenomenon. However, in a Portland courtroom, lawyers will debate how to make journalists easily identifiable so law enforcement doesn't attack them. The judge in the case could suggest a move toward government recognition of who a journalist is, something Oregon's Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) says it opposes.

There could be an element of truth to Portland's claim that some protesters use the media label as a shield to avoid getting hit by a cop directly or by chemical and impact munitions they deploy. But the increase in live streamers and other independent journalists who publish on social media or self-publish on websites are filling gaps left by ever-shrinking newsrooms and evolving media values. And as long as technology is easy to use, it's likely to be a part of future protest coverage.

University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication professor Damian Radcliffe, who also is a working journalist, says he first started to look into the trend of "citizen journalism" back in 2008 and 2009 when newsrooms were slashed away during the Great Recession.

Among other issues, he says, the economic meltdown created news coverage gaps and "A/C journalists" who reported from their climate controlled office — and sometimes from offices that were nowhere near the community they were reporting on.

One group that filled the gap were journalists who lacked formal training but could access sites like WordPress and Tumblr.

More than a decade later, with similar economic conditions to the Great Recession and a history-making civil rights movement, non-traditional journalists have taken to reporting at protests and police response via live streams and updates on social media websites more than ever.

"You can publish live onto the internet incredibly easily," Radcliffe says. "That's made it easier for anyone to become a publisher. At the same time, a lot of people think that the mainstream media doesn't reflect their lives, their interests and their concerns. I think there's plenty of truth in that."

He adds that there is a sense of frustration that the mainstream media doesn't represent the complexity of the community.

Another reason for the rise of independent media outlets on the ground at protests is because of the traditional American journalism tenet of objectivity. Younger journalists, Radcliffe adds, are grappling with being an activist or journalist. Recalling a conversation he had with a student, he says he asked them: Why not combine the two?

"Can we still have traditional journalistic ideals such as accuracy, verification, good writing and production but still also be championing for the kind society we want to live in?" he says. "That's a really interesting 'Day of Reckoning' that newsrooms are having to contend with as a result of a new civil rights movement we're seeing in the U.S. That conversation is long overdue."

'THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE CLOSER TO THE STORY THAN YOU, AND THEY'VE ALMOST ALWAYS GOT A SMARTPHONE AND THEY'RE CAPTURING IT. WE'LL ALSO SEE MORE AND MORE CASES WHERE THAT EYEWITNESS FOOTAGE POTENTIALLY CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL NARRATIVES OF WHAT HAPPENED.'

— DAMIAN RADCLIFFE, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION PROFESSOR

As lawyers in Portland debate the implementation of U.S. District Judge Michael Simon's temporary restraining order preventing federal law enforcement officers from attacking journalists, discussion of defining a journalist has emerged.

At a July 31 hearing for *Index Newspapers, LLC, et al. v. City of Portland, et al.*, which addresses both Portland police and the feds, Simon posed the question of whether the Oregon American Civil Liberties Union should have a narrower definition of who a journalist is. He added that journalists could wear a blue vest, similar to ACLU legal observers, according to *Courthouse News Service*.

Oregon SPJ's President Rachel Alexander says the organization is opposed to government-mandated credentialing of journalists.

"Our experience is that credentialing often limits access for freelancers and independent journalists while privileging more established media outlets," Alexander

says via email. "It also often fails to work in practice because of logistical issues (like delays in processing times) or because the people charged with enforcing the system on the ground aren't informed about how it's set up."

She adds that government agencies enforcing who and who isn't a legitimate journalist runs counter to the First Amendment and poses challenges for reporters who cover organizations like the Portland Police Bureau and the ACLU of Oregon.

Oregon SPJ doesn't define who a journalist is in its bylaws. And, Alexander says, independent journalists like social media live streamers could join as a member, since the national SPJ association's criteria is that someone must spend half or more of their time working as a journalist.

That does mean following the organization's Code of Ethics, she adds, which in the case of protest coverage includes not engaging in demonstrations, not instigating conflict with police or protesters and providing as much context as possible while reporting.

Radcliffe says it's complicated to define what makes someone a journalist. Whether someone is a journalist could be based on whether they identify that way or if their audience does.

Portland Police Bureau officials have said people get a few followers online and call themselves journalists, but Radcliffe says basing media legitimacy on follower count is a dangerous proxy to use.

He adds that if there is some sort of privilege afforded to journalists and not protesters who are exercising the same First Amendment right, treating journalists and protesters the same would result in fewer media imposters.

Radcliffe says it's inevitable that an increased number of live streamers will attend future protests because technology is evolving, making it easier to publish online for an audience. But that does come with the challenges of publishing footage online, which has led to a federal court demand for protest coverage from five media outlets, including *The Seattle Times*.

"There will always be someone closer to the story than you, and they've almost always got a smartphone and they're capturing it," Radcliffe says, recalling a quote he heard from someone at First Draft News, an organization dedicated to tackling misinformation and disinformation in the media. "We'll also see more and more cases where that eyewitness footage potentially challenges traditional narratives of what happened."

Eyewitness footage challenged the initial Minneapolis police narrative on the killing of George Floyd, which sparked the weeks of protests. And more recently — and locally — it has questioned the Springfield Police Department's use of force on Black Lives Matter-related protesters in Thurston on July 29. ■

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Pride Party in the Streets

LOCAL ACTIVIST GROUPS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO PUT ON EUGENE'S PRIDE MARCH FOR BLACK TRANS LIVES

By Taylor Perse

There may not be a Pride festival this year, but the celebration must go on. So grab your rainbow flag and Black Lives Matter signs, and get ready to hit the streets.

Eugene Pride and Black Unity are teaming up to host the Pride March for Black Trans Lives on Aug. 8 in place of the annual Pride in the Park Festival this year. Instead of drag queen performances and vendor booths, marchers are meeting at the Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse to listen to speakers and then start a march, which will end at Kiwanis Park near Skinner Butte.

Brooks McClain is a board member at large for Eugene Pride. He says that though this march is to celebrate pride of everyone involved in the LGBTQIA community, Pride wants to focus their support on Black lives and Black trans individuals, shedding light on the injustice and violence minority trans people face because of their race and gender. He says that organizers also hope the march helps strengthen mutual aid networks between the various groups involved.

Black Unity leader Claire Reyna said in an email to *Eugene Weekly* that when the group advocates that Black lives matter — they mean *all* Black lives.

"It is critical during this time that members in the community are educating themselves in order to be better allies and advocates for oppressed communities.



Photo by Todd Cooper

We want people to understand that if you are fighting for Black lives that means ALL Black lives, including Black trans lives," Reyna says.

The march seeks to amplify Black voices. People of color from different organizations such as Planned Parenthood, HIV Alliance, TransPonder and local government officials, including state Sen. James Manning and Eugene City Councilor Greg Evans, will speak at the event.

"You won't be hearing from us, it's specific voices that

the community needs to hear right now," McClain says.

This would have marked the festival's 29th year, but due to the ongoing pandemic, there were limited options in how to approach a Pride celebration. McClain says that several members of Eugene Pride have attended Black Lives Matter protests throughout the last few months and were inspired to collaborate on a march in lieu of hosting a virtual event, which many other canceled festivals have turned to.

"Rather than having a virtual event, it seemed that we really needed to go to our activist roots," McClain says. He adds later that organizers and participants will be taking proper precautions such as wearing masks while marching.

Both McClain and Eugene Pride Vice President Vince Mays say that pulling organizations together for this event is what Pride is all about — bringing people together and showing them love. All people of the LGBTQ community as well as allies are welcome to attend and celebrate together.

In order to better understand all Black lives, Reyna says, it's imperative to understand the struggle of all Black, Indigneous, people of color (BIPOC), which includes the LGBTQIA+ community.

"We must let the BIPOC LGBTQIA+ community be heard."

Mays says that the activist groups planning the event are aligned and overlap in the community, so it made sense to work together in pulling it off.

"Black Unity and Pride are both fighting to bring awareness to the violence, obstacles and challenges that people of color face as part of the queer community," he says.

Mays adds that queer teenagers, especially those of color, often have higher suicide rates, and events like this are an opportunity to show them that they are loved and cared for.

"This is an event where people can express love and gratitude for one another. We want to invite everyone who wants to do that to come out and be a part of it," Mays says. "Bring your kids, bring your family, come out and say hello." ■

Eugene Pride's March for Black Trans Lives starts 11 am Saturday, Aug. 8 at the Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse. To volunteer for the march contact event@eugenepride.org.

slant

• There's an important election in November.

What can I do? Go to the Blackberry Pie Society website and it will tell you "how to channel your political energy most effectively and speedily." Members of this smart and savvy "society" in Cottage Grove are sending postcards to voters in swing states, phoning voters in swing states and more. Who knows how much these efforts will affect the Nov. 3 election, but we do know it is worth a try. Locally you might want to make some calls for Rep. Peter DeFazio's campaign. Right-wing challenger Alek Skarlatos has recently raised more than \$1 million, is endorsed by Commissioner Jay Bozievich and Lars Larson, and his Fox and Friends interview was tweeted out by Donald Trump Jr. (before Jr.'s account was temporarily restricted for tweeting a video with false coronavirus information). Let's send Skarlatos back to *Dancing with the Stars*, shall we?

• *The Oregonian* teamed up with ProPublica and OPB for a knockout story about **the timber industry's efforts to influence and override scientific research out of Oregon State University**. "How a public institute in Oregon became a de facto lobbying arm of the timber industry" is an investigative deep dive into the Big Timber, its shills and the efforts to debunk science. The story mentions local concerns about pesticide sprays near Triangle Lake and features the Seneca timber spokes-

woman Casey Roscoe apparently pushing for a study that the timber industry hoped would show Oregon's state logging regulations protect our drinking water just fine. They don't, and the study reflected that, though Oregon Forest Resources Institute used your tax money to play that down. Remember, without journalists diving into stories like this, you don't get information about what happens to your tax dollars and public lands.

• **We need big structural reform in this country.** That's our conclusion after listening to two hours of virtual City Club of Eugene meetings about local law enforcement. For instance, David Zeiss, co-founder of CAHOOTS, says this great organization is getting so much national attention that they have a queue of reporters waiting for interviews, but it also has a problem with staff turnover because CAHOOTS workers are not earning a living wage. Eugene police officers start at a salary of \$64,542.40 annually. Eugene Police Chief Chris Skinner asked how to raise a generation of crime-free kids and how to keep kids in school. We need to pour more resources into public education in America. Good for the City Club for putting these issues out there. Now, let's get to big structural reform and better funding for organizations like CAHOOTS. Sen. Ron Wyden, who has a long history of working on health care reform, announced he is introducing a bill — the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) Act — to "encourage the use of health care, rather than law enforcement, to

respond to individuals who are experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder related crisis." The bill encourages other states to adopt Oregon's best practices through increased Medicaid funding.

• The Oregon State Legislature is preparing to convene for a second special session. But it turns out that it may not be so special after all. **With Republicans threatening another walkout** the Senate may be reduced to considering only technical budget issues. House Speaker Tina Kotek, a Democrat, is pushing to address police reform, but her efforts will likely be stymied. Can Oregon Republicans be so obtuse as to walk out on police reform? Can Senate President Peter Courtney marshal his Democratic senators? Stay tuned; the "special session" kicks off Aug. 10.

• Despite COVID-19, sports leagues (in particular, the Power Five conferences), want games to go on. But some **Pac-12 football players** are threatening a boycott if the NCAA doesn't meet certain demands to provide more safety in the game. The four-item demand list is available on The Player's Tribune website. The athletes are calling for the collegiate sports system to implement safety and health protocols, protect all sports, end racial injustice in college sports and society, and provide economic freedom and equity. On Aug. 2, Oregon football player Daewood Davis announced on Twitter that he's united with the cause to protect his fiancée and son.

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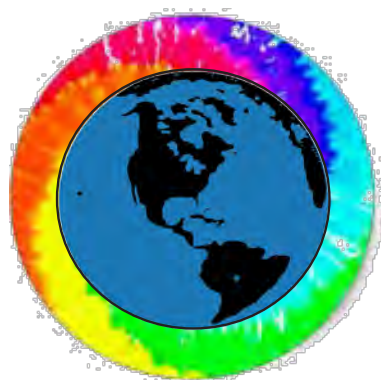
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Gender-Affirming Programs in Eugene During COVID-19

FROM MINI-GRANTS TO READING GROUPS, EUGENE ORGANIZATIONS ARE PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH AND GENDER-AFFIRMING SUPPORT DURING THE PANDEMIC By Anika Nykanen



TransPonder, a nonprofit organization serving transgender residents, sent out a survey early in the pandemic to identify its clients' most significant needs. "The biggest things that people were seeking were mental health support and community connection," says TransPonder's Oblio Stroyman. "We expected it to be more about housing and stuff, but actually what people are looking for is connection and having places to process with people who understand them."

Stroyman says community support of the kind TransPonder facilitates through social groups and other programs is critical to individual wellness, particularly during the pandemic.

Liz Byrne from Point of Pride, a Eugene-based nonprofit that helps fund gender-affirming surgeries, says trans organizations are integral to networks of mutual support. "We are part of this really beautiful history of trans resilience and people coming together who have been historically marginalized and excluded," Byrne says. "Out of that has come a wonderful testament to resilience and community building."

TransPonder and Point of Pride have shifted their operations during the COVID-19 shutdown. Despite the challenges posed by the evolving health crisis, both organizations are still offering a wide variety of support services.

TransPonder facilitates support groups and social get-togethers. The transgender-led nonprofit has run anti-oppression trainings for agencies and businesses, cooking classes, swim groups, clothing swaps and professional trainings for transgender community members.

'THIS YEAR IS JUST ABOUT AS CLOSE TO THE ORIGINAL INCIDENT THAT INSPIRED PRIDE AS IT'S EVER BEEN ... IT'S PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER TO FIGHT A FORCE RATHER THAN RAINBOW CAPITALISM.'

— OBLIO STROYMAN, TRANSPONDER

Unofficially, TransPonder also does community advocacy.

During the pandemic, TransPonder has taken many programs online and limited in-person services. A remote book club and three new virtual support groups, including a transgender Black, Indigenous and people of color support group, have been added to its list of programs. TransPonder is also dropping off books, art kits and hormone products to clients directly and has partnered with local businesses to provide other supplies.

"The community is supporting each other and showing up for each other and making sure people have what they need," Stroyman says.

Point of Pride is providing a different kind of mutual support during the pandemic. The volunteer-run organization created a COVID-19 mini-grant program for trans and gender expansive people to help pay for hormone replacement therapy medical supplies and mental health support. The grants range from \$50 to \$75 and are distributed on a rolling basis. As of this writing, the program has distributed \$17,425 to 238 recipients.

Byrne says the grants are needed, but that \$75 doesn't address the systemic discrimination their clients face.

"It's a little bit like drinking from a water hydrant," Byrne says. "There's just so much needed given how systemically the community has been underserved for so long or even outright targeted."

Both Byrne and Stroyman agree that showing up and doing what they can for their community is essential.

"We have to fight for the things that we have, or we don't have them," Stroyman says.

This year's Aug. 8 Pride parade takes that fight to the streets of Eugene. Rather than a party in the park, Stroyman says Eugene Pride will be a march organized by TransPonder, Black Unity and a number of other organizations for Black trans lives.

"This year is just about as close to the original incident that inspired Pride as it's ever been," Stroyman says. Stroyman is referencing the Stonewall Riots in 1969, which in part sparked the gay liberation movement and



were supposed to have been started by Black transgender women. Stroyman says, "This year it's people coming together to fight a force rather than rainbow capitalism."

Byrne says 2020 Pride is returning to its historic roots. "It's about fighting against systemic oppression, uplifting the most marginalized members of the community, separating out corporate entities from pride and really having the focus be on perseverance through the struggle." ■

The march for Black Trans Lives is at noon Aug. 8 at the Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse. To apply for Point of Pride's COVID-19 mini-grant program, visit PointofPride.org. Access TransPonder's programs through Transponder.Community.

Quaran-Queens

HOW THE PANDEMIC IS AFFECTING EUGENE'S DRAG COMMUNITY
AND LGBTQIA GATHERING SPOTS By Frankie Kerner

Cornel Hardiman's friend used to practice doing hair on him. She wanted more knowledge of Black hair care — anything from relaxers to braided extensions. She was the first transgender person Hardiman had met.

One day, before she passed away, she looked at him and said, "You have really pretty eyes. Have you ever thought about doing drag?"

He hadn't. At the time, he was married and had three daughters with his wife. Doing drag had never really crossed his mind. But after some convincing, he decided to give it a shot.

Twenty-five years later, Hardiman is one of Eugene's most beloved drag queens; he shows up each year as a Best of Eugene top choice. He's since been divorced and has come out as gay.

By day, Hardiman works at the Kiva Grocery, but by night, he's Karress Ann Slaughter. As Karress, Hardiman usually performs four to six times a month at venues such as Cowfish Danceclub, the Axe & Fiddle, Public House and Spectrum Bar.

For the past five months, though, Hardiman's drag persona hasn't been on stage. With social distancing orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, drag shows haven't been a feasible source of entertainment.

Two weeks ago, Hardiman performed his first show in months in Salem at the Southside Speakeasy. Sporting a plastic face shield, Karress Ann Slaughter finally got to make an appearance. "Dancing with a shield is the weirdest thing," Hardiman says. "When you get out and the light hits you, you can't even see in front of your face."

On a normal night, Hardiman is an expressive performer

who loves crowd interaction — audience members will slip drag queens tips as they dance and sing. But at this show, things had to be socially distant, with the audience sitting six feet apart from one another. "You do notice the slight disconnect with people, because I'm the kind of performer that's in your face," Hardiman says. "I'm on the dance floor right there in front of you. But once the energy was flowing, it was really nice. I'd do it again."

In Eugene, Spectrum Bar hosts the highest number of drag shows. It's Eugene's only gay bar, but its motto is "more than just a gay bar." Spectrum opened in 2018, shortly after the closing of the Wayward Lamb, Eugene's previous LGBTQ-centric bar.

Over the past two years, Spectrum has become a space for marginalized people to gather safely. General manager Jen McElroy says the bar typically hosts up to 40 events each month — everything from comedy to live music, board game nights to drag shows.

That number has gone down to zero in recent months due to COVID-19. Despite many bars and restaurants opening with limited indoor and outdoor seating, Spectrum decided to keep its doors closed altogether. "We thought about opening with limited seating," McElroy says. "But



CORNEL
HARDIMAN
AKA
KARRESS
ANN
SLAUGHTER

any interaction with the public would be putting us at risk, putting the public at risk, and we just don't think it's a good idea. We're really concerned about other people's safety."

Currently, Spectrum isn't generating any money. McElroy says it's been difficult to stay afloat financially. "We really hope that the money doesn't run out. We're hanging on by a thread with our dollars from sales," she says, referring to pre-pandemic sales of drinks and food.

While Spectrum can't host events right now, the venue continues to connect with the LGBTQ+ community and provide resources. According to McElroy, Spectrum is working on a project for suicide prevention within LGBTQ+ and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) youth. They have also been doing street feed with CORE (Community Outreach through Radical Empowerment) for over a year, providing water and food to unhoused people in Eugene.

With coronavirus cases on the rise, and Lane County dialing back on reopening, it will likely be a while until Spectrum will be back in business, but McElroy remains hopeful that it will reopen. "We will definitely be back," McElroy says. "We really look forward to serving our community again." ■

For more information on Spectrum, visit SpectrumEugene.com. To learn more about Eugene's drag scene, check out the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire at ICCEE.org.

Sisters of the World

SOROMUNDI LESBIAN CHORUS STILL SINGING AFTER 30 YEARS By Joanna Mann

Thirty years ago, a small group of women held the first living room rehearsal of what would end up being a long-lasting ensemble for queer women to celebrate their community by raising their voices in harmony: Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene.

"We're a lesbian chorus, but we welcome any woman who wants to sing under that banner," Kate Berry says. She's been singing with the group for 24 years and currently serves as the board president. "We're an inclusive space; we have members who identify as non-binary, for example."

Soromundi rehearsals won't quite fit into a living room anymore — over the past 30 years, nearly 1,500 people have been involved with the chorus, with about 80-90 women actively participating today. And, due to social distancing measures, 90 people packed into a rehearsal space together is a thing of the past. So, as has happened to everyone, Soromundi's 2020 plans have been put on hold.

To celebrate more than a quarter century of singing as a visible expression of lesbian pride, Soromundi had planned an out-of-town Envision 2020 Tour as well as a CD recording of *Soromundi's Greatest Hits*. The group was going to workshop and perform with Voices Lesbian A Cappella Chorus, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco and the Mendocino Women's Choir. But, as the tour was set for the end of March, when the seriousness of COVID-19 became clear, the director and the board decided to postpone the tour and the CD recording until a safer time for the group to be together again.

"We're a pretty resilient group, so everybody is prepared to work with what we can do when we can do it," Berry says. "But it was obviously a loss for everybody."

The chorus faced another huge letdown when it was announced that Eugene Pride would not be happening in August due to COVID-19 restrictions. Normally the group has an information booth at Pride, and this year they were planning to sing. Eugene's Pride is historically held in August, while most other Pride celebrations are in June.

"It's particularly so sad for Pride because, at this point, we all want to express our support for social justice," Berry says. "Pride would have been a perfect venue to do that. It's a lost opportunity for community connection and community celebration."

Chorus members are constantly interacting with and educating communities about inclusivity. Music Director Lisa Hellemn says that in the past the group has gotten grants to travel to rural areas in Oregon so locals can join the choir for a day.

"These interactive workshops build bridges and allow people to be allies in whatever way they want to," Hellemn says. Hellemn saw the chorus perform for the first time during the now-defunct Eugene Celebration a year after it formed, and decided she wanted to lend a hand as a supporter and an accompanist. She became the music director in 1993 and has been leading the group ever since.

Once chorus members stopped holding in-person

rehearsals, they began holding social meetings and smaller rehearsals over Zoom. Hellemn says she wanted to make sure everyone had support, and that elderly members of the group had people to get groceries for them.

"There are people in our group who have great social networks, but there are others who feel very isolated, misrepresented and misunderstood," Hellemn says. "There are still people in our group who can't perform because they're worried about their work status and people knowing."

Hellemn says that two years ago, Soromundi was invited by another group to sing with them in a church. But once the church venue found out that Soromundi was a lesbian chorus, they refused to let them perform.

"There's still a lot of that even though we're a pretty progressive community," Hellemn says.

Chorus membership is open to anyone who identifies as lesbian, straight, bisexual, transgender, cisgender or non-binary. While the group honors its history and identity as the Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene, anyone who is over 18 and identifies as a woman is welcome to join.

"It's kind of old school to label ourselves as lesbians because we're not all lesbians," Hellemn says. "But as long as it's relevant and people are getting turned down and reacting to that label, we're still using it to raise awareness." ■

Find out more about the Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene at Soromundi.Wixsite.com.



EUGENE ARTIST SOPHIE NAVARRO / PHOTO BY ATHENA DELENE

The dog days of this summer have been especially brutal, yes, but a relaxing, socially distant, outdoor alternative is at hand when the Lane Arts Council, in partnership with ArtCity, hosts **Open Air Studios**, an extension of First Friday Art Week. Inspired by the popular Studio Without Walls exhibit from pre-pandemic days past, Open Air Studios is an opportunity, says Lane Arts’ Jessica Watson, to showcase visual artists in these COVID-19 days. “What kind of event can we have where we can celebrate the artists?” Watson explains, adding that Lane Arts just wants “to highlight anything right now.” In addition to the artists, there will be music from Ella Trash and the Eugene Difficult Music Ensemble. Oregon Health Authority guidelines will be met, Watson emphasizes. That means no more than 100 people, including the artists, will be allowed inside the area at a time, and that number will be closely monitored. Also, masks are required.

Open Air Studios, presented by the Lane Arts Council and ArtCity is 5:30 to 7:30 pm Friday, Aug. 7, at the Park Blocks, East 8th Avenue and Oak Street. Lane Arts also will have a presence at the Tuesday Farmers Market, Aug. 11, at the Park Blocks when plein air painters gather to chronicle a day at the market from 10 am to 3 pm. FREE — *Dan Buckwalter*

GENERAL

LISTINGS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

ACTIVIST ALERT

Thursday, Aug. 6: CLDC Renter’s Rights, What You Need to Know, 3-5pm. More info at CLDC.org.

Saturday, Aug. 8: March for Black Trans Lives at Federal Courthouse in Eugene, noon

ONLINE MEETINGS FOR 12-STEP PROGRAMS

Al-Anon Anonymous meetings can be found at AlaNonLaneor.us.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings can be found at EviAaaweb.org.

Co-Dependents Anonymous meetings can be found at Coda.org.

Debtors Anonymous meetings can be found at OregonDebtorsAnonymous.org

Emotions Anonymous meetings can be found at EmotionsAnonymous.org.

Marijuana Anonymous meetings can be found at Marijuana-Anonymous.org.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings can be found at na.org.

Overeaters Anonymous meetings can be found at oa.org.

Refuge Recovery meetings can be found at RefugeRecovery.org.

HEALTH

Zoom classes at YMCA.org.

Zoom workout classes at CrossFit. Email Contact@CrossFitIntensify.com for more info.

Workout classes at IAmForeverStrong.com.

Workout classes at Evolve Fitness Studios. More info at EvolveFitnessStudios Facebook page.

Yoga classes at EugeneYoga.us; WildLightYogaCenter.com; EugeneMudra.com; HotYogaEugeneBalanced.com; YogaEugene.com.

ONLINE ENTERTAINMENT

Oregon State Parks, Nature: Live in Your Family Room, OregonStateParks.org.

OMSI Live stream events. Short notice on these events. More info at OMSI Facebook page.

“Springfield Public Library - Where Minds Grow,” Springfield Public Library YouTube channel.

ONLINE EXHIBITS

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, JSMA.Uoregon.edu.

Maude Kerns Art Center, MkCenter.org.

NON-ONLINE EXHIBITS

Emerald Art Center, 500 Main St, Springfield. More info at EmeraldArtCenter.org.

Karin Clarke Gallery, Eugene Biennial, Celebrating Exceptional Art in Our Region (thru Aug. 29).

Street Art -- Oaxaca, Mexico, through Sept. 1, PhotoZone Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Classes and programs online w/ Museum of Natural & Cultural History (UO), MNCH.Uoregon.edu.

Opportunities at Extension. OregonState.edu. Oregon State University Extension Service.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

FANS on Relix.com. Some streams FREE, others cost. More info at Relix.com.

The Scent of Tulips (thru Aug. 16), MinorityVoices-Theatre.org or Very Little Theatre Facebook page.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL

Blue Cliff Zen Ctr, via Zoom. Meetings can be found at BlueCliffZen.org.

THURSDAY

AUGUST 6

HEALTH

Name Support Zoom Group at NamiLane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

LIVE MUSIC

Timothy Patrick & The Saints, 6 pm at 5th Street Market.

Rudolf Korv, 7pm at beer-garden.

Hank Shreve & Skip Jones, 6pm at Mac’s Nightclub & Restaurant.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Citizens Climate Lobby, Lane County Chapter meeting, 5:30-7pm. For link, email LaneCounty.or@CitizensClimateLobby.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Calming Yoga via Zoom, noon-1pm. RSVP at Vista-Psych.com.

Spread Peace, online support group, noon. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

Stay at Home Lecture Series w/ OSU College of Forestry, 3pm, Oregon-State.edu.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Quirky Thursdays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

ON THE AIR

“The Point,” 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

“Arts Journal,” 9pm, Comcast channel 29.

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

FRIDAY

AUGUST 7

ART/CRAFT

New Zone Art Gallery Salon de Refuses, 5:30pm, New Zone Art Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

Open Air Studios, presented by Lane Arts Council and ArtCity, 5:30-7:30pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

LIVE MUSIC

Brook Adams & Jon Neher, 6pm at Territorial Vineyards

Stress Doctor, 6:30pm at Mac’s Nightclub & Restaurant.

ONLINE FAMILY GATHERINGS

Oregon Zoo Live, activities developed by an award winning team aimed at K-5, 9:30am, OregonZoo.org.

Family Storytime Live w/ Eugene Public Library, 11am, Eugene Public Library Facebook page.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

MindFreedom Oregon: Revolution, Mental Health & COVID, 2-3:30pm. Email mf-Oregon@Aci or phone 541-914-1469 for more info.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Epic Fridays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

“Virtual Cinema” w/ Broadway Metro. More info at BroadwayMetro.com.

SATURDAY

AUGUST 8

FARMERS MARKETS

Lane County Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

Spencer Creek Growers Market, 10am-2pm, Spencer Creek Grange, 86013 Lorane Hwy.

LIVE MUSIC

Geoffrey Mays, 6pm, at Territorial Vineyards

RIFFLE, 6pm at Bennett Vineyards.

MARKETS

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-3pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

River Song Co-housing informational meeting, 9-10am, RiverSongCohousing.org or call 541-357-8303.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Your Memoir in a Weekend, 1-5 pm, WordCrafters.org. \$249-279.

ON THE AIR

The Dr. Yeti Show, 10pm-midnight, KOCF, 92.7

FM or streamed at KOCF.org.

The Institute of Spectra-Sonic Sound (new experimental, noise, drone, minimal music), 10pm-midnight, KEPW 97.3 FM.

SUNDAY

AUGUST 9

FARMERS MARKETS

Dexter Lake Farmers Market, noon-4pm, Rolling Rock Park, Lowell.

HEALTH

Occupy Medical, noon-4pm, 1717 Centennial Blvd, Springfield.

MARKETS

Whiteaker Community Market, 11am-4pm, Scobert Park, 4th Ave. & Blair Blvd.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

WOW Hall Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom, 3pm, WOWHall.org.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Your Memoir in a Weekend, 1-5 pm, WordCrafters.org. \$249-279.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL

Eugene Insight Meditation Community via Zoom, 6:30pm. More info at EugeneInsight.com.

MONDAY

AUGUST 10

HEALTH

Connection Peer Support Group at NamiLane.org. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

Granny Rocks, 6:30pm. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Musical Mondays (music education videos), 10am, Eugene Symphony Orchestra Facebook page.

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

Wordcrafters Craft Series w/ John Reed, 6-8pm, WordCrafters.org. \$35.

TUESDAY

AUGUST 11

FARMERS MARKETS

Tuesday Farmers Market, 10am-3pm, Park Blocks, E. 8th Ave. & Oak St.

LECTURES/CLASSES

New Zone Art Gallery Figure Drawing sessions, 6-9pm, New Zone Art Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

Into the Deep: A D&D inspired Summer Camp, 3-5pm, WordCrafters.org. \$165-185.

Beginning Meditation, 6-7:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene. FREE-\$10.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

NW10: Oh, Boise!, 12th Annual Northwest Ten Festival of 10-minute plays, 6pm, via Zoom w/ Oregon Contemporary Theatre (Inevitable by Mindy Roll and Egg in Spoon by Rachael Carnes).

ONLINE RECREATION

Tuesdays w/ Ty (virtual trivia), 6pm, Hult Ctr. Facebook page.

Trivia Night w/ Nic, 7:30pm, Rennie’s Landing.

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 12

GATHERINGS

New Zone Art Gallery Drum Circle, 6pm, New Zone Art Gallery, 22 W. 7th Ave.

HEALTH

Connection Peer Support Group at NamiLane.org. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

LIVE MUSIC

Jazz & Variety, 6pm, Mac’s Nightclub & Restaurant.

Jimmy Haggard, 7pm, at PublicHouse.

ONLINE FAMILY & KIDS

Little Notes Music Time, 9:30am, More info at Suzuki Music Academy Facebook page.

Storybook STEM w/ Eugene Public Library & Eugene Science Center, 1pm, Eugene Public Library Facebook page.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Lunchtime Meditation, noon-12:30pm. More info at MeditateInEugene.org. FREE-\$5.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

Family Wednesdays w/ Eugene Symphony Orchestra, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

Granny Rocks, 6:30pm. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

THURSDAY

AUGUST 13

HEALTH

Name Support Zoom Group at NamiLane.org, 7pm. RSVP at NamiLane.org.

LIVE MUSIC

Hank Shreve & Skip Jones, 6pm at Mac’s Nightclub & Restaurant.

Rob Tobias & Brook Adams, 7pm, at beergarden.

ONLINE LECTURES/CLASSES

Calming Yoga via Zoom, noon-1pm. RSVP at Vista-Psych.com.

Spread Peace, online support group, noon. RSVP at BethGreen.as.me.

Stay at Home Lecture Series w/ OSU College of Forestry, 3pm, Oregon-State.edu.

ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Quirky Thursdays, 5pm, Francesco Lecce-Chong Facebook page.

ON THE AIR

“The Point,” 9am, KOPV, 88.0 FM

“Arts Journal,” 9pm, Comcast channel 29.

Thursday Night Jazz, 10pm, KLCC, 89.7 FM

ATTENTION

The Eugene Performing Arts Center is partnering with local businesses and organizations to provide a “Learning Lab” service for kids K-8, as well as registration for kids ages 1 to 19 for theater and dance. Two-day registration for the classes is Aug. 8 and 9, 10 am to 4 pm, with limited in-studio class sizes to maintain social distancing in COVID-19 as well as hybrid classes at reduced costs. Registration and more information is at EugenePac.com.

Paradis Found

EUGENE VISUAL ARTIST PERFORMS IMPROVISATIONAL GUITAR MUSIC AT COWFISH

By Will Kennedy

Back when live music was still a thing, Eugene musician and visual artist Will Paradis found a very unusual vantage point from which he liked to sketch: the mosh pit at rock shows. “I started to get a following,” Paradis says, from his quick and expressive sketch drawings capturing the band mid-performance.

That following included UK punk bands like Subhumans and The Adicts on tour stops in Eugene. Angelo Moore, lead singer and sax player with Fishbone was also impressed. So were members of the Dean Ween Group.

“Sometimes I would go to present a drawing after the show,” Paradis adds. Other times, the musicians would seek him out “because they saw me doing it,” he says.

With live music on hold, Paradis has kept busy working on visual art and daily music live streams, primarily on Instagram. He performs his own improvisational guitar music at Art4Truth Friday, Aug. 7, at Cowfish as part of



First Friday ArtWalk, where all COVID-19 safety protocols will be enforced at the indoor show, including masks and social distancing.

There won’t be any sketching at Paradis’ upcoming show. Instead, Paradis will accompany his own acrylic paintings, which are influenced by abstract expressionism. Paradis’ paintings have been up at Cowfish since early July, and the show wraps up at the end of this month.

Musically, Paradis has the intellectual sense of humor of Frank Zappa and Captain Beefheart’s legendary guitarist — and Eugene resident — Zoot Horn Rollo.

Rooted in rock ‘n’ roll, the music gets heavy at times, with the unusual grooves and abrasive edges of the Melvins and Primus. A lot of Paradis’ unique sound comes from his unusual technique.

“I play a right-handed guitar left-handed and upside down,” Paradis says, relying heavily on live-looping and effects pedals. He also does some vocal improv. “Where I’m sort of speaking/talking on various topics,” Paradis says, such as art, love as an energy, and — because why not — speaking to whales.

Paradis studied visual art at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire. After moving to Eugene, he worked for a time under the tutelage of the late, reclusive local artist Tom Blodgett. Paradis always had an interest in the guitar, though, and — outside of a few chords and the pentatonic scale — he says he is completely self-taught.

What bridges Paradis’ music and visual art is the pursuit of truth, referenced in Art4Truth, an all-encompassing, umbrella term he uses for his work in both mediums.

He’s also interested in psychonautics — a methodology for describing and explaining the subjective effects of altered states of consciousness and the power of improvisation, or what he calls compositional automatism.

That’s the idea that you can create a flow directly from the unconscious that’s seemingly random but connected by something more than just notes and colors, Paradis says.

Art can even help us understand the universe, he says. “I believe art goes way deeper, at least as deep as science, into the understanding of how the universe works,” Paradis continues. “Collective consciousness is a big part of what I’m about.” ■

Will Paradis performs as Art4Truth 6 pm Friday, Aug. 7, at Cowfish Dance Club; FREE, 21-plus. There will also be an artist reception at 5 pm. Paradis’ art hangs at Cowfish through the end of August.



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It's Safety First at Visual Arts Week

THE CITY'S SUMMER ART FEST DOESN'T WANT BIG CROWDS THIS YEAR

By Ester Barkai

For the first time in its three years of operation, Eugene Visual Arts Week is trying to make it so people don't have to show up. Trying to keep crowds away is the opposite of what Jessica Watson usually does. Speaking on the phone, I asked how she was. She replied, "As good as an event planner can be doing."

Watson is Lane Arts' ArtWalk and event planner. With the future uncertain due to COVID-19, plans are likely to change. And it's not easy to take back marketing once you've put it out there.

"If you like planning the same event like five different times, this is the job for you," she says.

Lane Arts had planned to present a concert and big kick-off for Visual Arts Week (VAW) and the August First Friday ArtWalk, but that was canceled. And they are not requiring that galleries be open either. Rather, Watson is working with individuals at their own comfort level.

In 2018 VAW kicked off outside the Mayor's Art Show at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts with a large crowd and performances. Mayor Lucy Vinis even tossed a balloon back after it reached the stage.

This year will have no balloons — and if the week's organizers can help it, no crowds either.

Lane Arts has sought to avoid crowds by extending First Friday from one evening to a full week. "Stretching First Friday out," Dianne Story Cunningham says, allows for more hours of art viewing, "instead of the crush of First Friday."

Cunningham is president of New Zone Gallery, which is home to Salon des Refusés, where artworks rejected by the Mayor's Art Show are exhibited. She says New Zone will be open and have the usual First Friday opening with beer and wine, music and "lots of space for visitors, with control at the door to see we don't get crowded. Masks are required to enter the gallery, with social distancing expected."

The Mayor's Art Show will be available for viewing this year at satellite locations in downtown storefronts.



Photo by Dennis Galloway

And curator Shannon Santiago hired photographer and University of Oregon professor Nathan Ward to take pictures of the show for an online exhibit.

The Eugene Biennial, a regional juried exhibition at the Karin Clarke Gallery, will be open to the public. The Mayor's Art Show, Clarke says, made the decision to go online early on. It is easier for Clarke to wait until the last minute, if closing becomes necessary.

Clarke's Biennial and The Mayor's Show are handing out their awards to artists on Aug. 14 via a Zoom meeting. If you're not invited, don't worry. You'll be able to watch the recorded version when Clarke posts it on her gallery's website.

Many of VAW's participants are extending online options for people who feel more comfortable taking part from the safety of their homes. Eugene Contemporary Art is exhibiting art in its relatively new space ANTI-AESTHETIC online at AntiAesthetic.com. Maude Kerns Art Center is holding workshops in-person and online, and Lane Arts is doing the same with its Studio Tours, of which there are 17 planned.

Of all events taking place, the outdoor ones seem most suited to social distancing in a pandemic.

Not like that was on anyone's mind when the city's

Bridge Exhibitions was founded three years ago. Its focus on contemporary art and installation has always been more outdoor friendly. This year Bridge Exhibitions is presenting Reflections Space Eugene, a five-month-long series of outdoor works starting the week of Aug. 7 whose purpose in part is to invite "reflection and processing of events and experiences throughout the COVID-19 pandemic."

Eugene's chapter of Earthbound Moon, headed by Lee Pembleton, has commissioned five "Create-Your-Own-Sculpture Treasure Hunts" and invites you to collaborate with five artists on a series of DIY artworks.

And Outdoor Studios will be set up by Lane Arts and Art City at the Park Blocks on Aug. 7 — unless there are further quarantine restrictions, Watson says.

Is Visual Arts Week different this year?

It is. But Eugene's Public Art Manager Kate Ali says having an imagination and being creative is as important now as it's ever been: Visual Arts Week "encourages creatives to thrive," she says. ■

Lane Arts Council, Eugene Cultural Services Division and Maude Kerns Art Center present the third annual Visual Arts Week from Aug. 7-15. For a schedule and locations see Eugene-or.gov/3934/Visual-Arts-Week.

**Join HIV Alliance
at the Pride March
for Black Trans
Lives hosted by
Black Unity and
Eugene/Springfield
Pride on Saturday
August 8, 2020!**

**UNITY
HIV Alliance**

**The march will begin at 12pm at the
Federal Courthouse and end at
Kiwanis/Skinner Butte park. HIV
Alliance will be at the Kiwanis Park
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BULLETIN BOARD

Announcements

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 Helpline Recording (541-342-5582). For meetings & information: www.eugene-saa.org

HAS MARIJUANA STOPPED BEING FUN?
 Contact the Out Of The Fog meeting of Marijuana Anonymous - (541) 556-0877.

Lost & Found

FOUND CHAINSAW. Final claim date 8/29/2020. Write letter to Billy Dahmen, 671 Startouch Drive, Eugene, OR 97405. Or email at surveydahmen@gmail.com. No drop by visitors. Provide contact information (name, phone, address) plus make, model and bar size of chainsaw to claim. Date of loss would also be helpful if more than one person claims it

Pets

GREENHILL HUMANE SOCIETY Everybody Deserves a Good Home. Open 7 days a week from 11am-6pm . 88530 Green Hill Rd 541-689-1503 green-hill.org See our Pet of the Week!

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RETIRED HANDYMAN: With Young Muscle & Good Helpers. Moss Removal/ Yard Cleanup/ Moving/ Hauling- Starting at \$25 per hour w/ 3 hour min.**GUTTER CLEANING SPECIAL:** 1 Story \$120/ 2 Story \$145 . We also build fences--\$2275 for 80 feet length of 6 ft tall Cedar Fencing -- includes labor and materials. House Driveway/sidewalk spray w/ disinfection \$325. We can help with garden soil tilling. Senior discounts. Bill: 541-232-3753, **NO TEXTS.** Lic. 5564. We come to all areas! Why call us? Because- we are the best Satisfaction guaranteed, or no charge.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Case No. 20PB03885 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS in the matter of the Estate of Frederick W. Rhoads, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ashley Arnold has qualified and been appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative, Ashley Arnold, c/o DC Law, McKinney & Sperry, PC, P.O. Box 1265, Roseburg, OR 97470, or the claims may be barred. Dated and first published this 23rd day of July, 2020. Personal Representative: Ashley Arnold C/O Jeffrey D. Krebs, OSB #094110 DC Law - McKinney & Sperry PC PO Box 1265 Roseburg, OR 97470 Telephone: 541-673-4451 Fax: 541-673-1202

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Case No. 20PB04742 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS in the matter of the Estate of Alison Mowbray Cummings, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Robert J. Cummings has qualified and been appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative, Robert J. Cummings, c/o DC Law, McKinney & Sperry, PC, P.O. Box 1265, Roseburg, OR 97470, or the claims may be barred. Dated and first published this 23rd day of July, 2020. Personal Representative: Robert J. Cummings C/O Jeffrey D. Krebs, OSB #094110 DC Law - McKinney & Sperry PC PO Box 1265 Roseburg, OR 97470 Telephone: 541-673-4451 Fax: 541-673-1202

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE PROBATE DEPARTMENT In the Matter of the Estate of MICHELLE LEE MITCHELL-FOUST, Deceased. Case No. 20PB04449 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS The Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Lane, (Probate Department), in No. 20PB04449, has appointed Karen Mitchell, personal representative of the estate of Michelle Lee Mitchell-Foust, Deceased. Within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, all persons having claims against the estate shall present the claims to the personal representative at 10300 SW Greenburg Rd., Ste. 500, Portland, Oregon 97223. Claims not so presented may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceeding TAKE NOTICE THAT additional information may be obtained from the records of the court, the personal representative or Samantha K. Robell of MYATT & BELL, P.C., attorney for the personal representative, at 10300 SW Greenburg Rd., Ste. 500, Portland, Oregon, 97223. Dated and first published this 23rd day of July, 2020. /s/ Karen Mitchell Personal Representative

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE PROBATE DEPARTMENT In the Matter of the Estate of PHYLLIS DIANE KNIGHTS, Deceased. No. 20PB04563 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS (ORS 113.155) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Peggy J. De Necochea, has been appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Phyllis Diane Knights, deceased. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the Personal Representative, through her attorney, John A. Hudson, North Bank Law, at 66 Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, Oregon 97401-2459, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. (Please provide vouchers or documents substantiating any such claim). All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the personal representative, whose contact information is as follows: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Peggy J. De Necochea, 25067 Perkins Road, Veneta, OR 97487, Tele: (541) 935-4238. ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, North Bank Law, John A. Hudson, OSB #741498, 66

Club Road, Suite 200, Eugene, OR 97401, Tele: (541) 485-0777 Fax: (541)344-7487 Dated: July 23rd, 2020. /s/ John A. Hudson, OSB #741498 Attorney for Personal Representative

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF WALTER GOECKEL COUNTY OF LANE Notice is hereby given to the creditors and contingent creditors of the above-named decedent, that all persons having claims against the decedent are required to file them with the Trustee and mail a copy to Werner Goeckel, Trustee, within the later of four months after the date of the first publication of notice to creditors or, if notice is mailed or personally delivered to you, 30 days after the date this notice is mailed or personally delivered to you. For your protection, you are encouraged to file your claim by certified mail, with return receipt requested. Werner Goeckel, 2650 Taylor St., Eugene OR 97405

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Claims against the Estate of Erik Woodley Rasmussen, Deceased, Lane County Circuit Court Case No. 20PB04985, are required to be presented to the Personal Representative, Christian P. Rasmussen, at 440 East Broadway, Suite 300, Eugene, Oregon 97401, within four (4) months from 08/06/20, the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred. Any person whose rights may be affected by the proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative, or the attorneys for the Personal Representative. GAYDOS, CHURNSIDE & BALTHROP, P.C., Attorneys for Personal Representative

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS ESTATE OF STEPHEN RICHARD SMITH LANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 20PB04819 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with written evidence thereof attached, to the Co-Personal Representatives, Julie Everts-Morrissey and Dale F. Smith, c/o Frank C. Gibson, Hutchinson Cox, PO Box 10886, Eugene, Oregon 97440. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them within four months after the date of first publication of this notice to the Co-Personal Representatives at the address stated above for the presentation of claims or such claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by these proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Co-Personal Representatives, or the Attorney for the Co-Personal Representatives, named above. Dated and first published 07/23/20

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS In the Matter of the Estate of MILDRED JOANN CARVER, Deceased, in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Lane County, Probate Case No. 20PB05003, Laura J. Carver has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative c/o her attorney K. Joseph Trudeau at the address set forth below, within four months after the date of first publication of this Notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or her attorney, K. Joseph

Trudeau, Trudeau Law Offices, P.C., 180 West Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 428, Junction City, Oregon 97448, telephone 541-998-2378. Date of first publication: July 30, 2020.

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS Notice Is Hereby Given that Terry McDonald has been appointed and has qualified as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Anne Williams, deceased, Lane County

Probate Case No. 20PB02726. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present their claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the Personal Representative's attorney at P.O. Box 1268, Eugene, OR 97440 or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this Estate may obtain additional information from

the records of the Court, the Personal Representative or the attorney for the Personal Representative. Dated and first published: July 23rd, 2020. Terry McDonald, Personal Representative Alan J. Thayer, Jr., Attorney for Personal Representative P.O. Box 1268 Eugene, OR 97440

I.ammirati
 Running for #ahmaudarbery. shutting down the I-105, view from the #OwenRoseGarden

USE THE HASHTAG #EWEXPOSURE FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN EW.

Jonesin' Crossword BY MATT JONES ©2020 JONESIN' CROSSWORDS (EDITOR@JONESINCROSSWORDS.COM)

Across

1 They're out to pasture
 10 Words before "your mother" or "your father"
 15 Prepared statement
 16 Slip
 17 Verdi opera originally titled "La maledizione" ("The Curse")
 18 ___ Sel%onne, highest-scoring Finn in NHL history
 19 Short gamut
 20 Measures of loudness
 21 Change direction sharply
 23 Does a dairy duty
 27 "Them!" creature
 28 Cry of accomplishment
 30 WWE wrestler ___
 Mysterio
 31 Iconic "Lady and the Tramp" song whose title means "Beautiful Night"
 33 Elemento numero 79

34 CLE player
 35 Middle of a French Revolution motto
 36 Pharmacy chain with unusually long receipts
 37 Card seen in skat
 38 Risky purchase
 40 Places for Whoppers, briefly
 41 Frigid ocean areas that can be seasonal or permanent
 42 Site for mil. planes
 43 Record producer Mike ___, or actress ___ Kaye
 44 Go with the flow, maybe?
 48 Minimal
 50 Hull backbone
 51 Rod Stewart's "Lost ___"
 52 Extended
 57 Make grime pay?
 58 Moved forward, perhaps
 59 River through France

and Belgium
 60 Vacation purchase with a possibly aggressive sales pitch

Down

1 Harness part
 2 Nation where kreyó! ayisyen is spoken
 3 Bush or Clinton, informally
 4 Game for NFL all-stars
 5 Daughter of Loki
 6 One of the saisons
 7 Dirty groove?
 8 "The 5,000 Fingers of ___" (1953 Dr. Seuss film)
 9 ___-Caps (movie candy brand)
 10 Increases in difficulty, like a hike
 11 Vowel-rich cookie
 12 Category for Styx and (arguably) the Stones

"Getting Free K"

--reaching #1000! I say 28 Across!

13 "Wow, that was rude!"
 14 Cereal on "The Simpsons" where Bart ingested some jagged metal
 22 Small-screen movie, quaintly
 23 One in charge
 24 Admire excessively
 25 Told, as a secret
 26 ___ Bachika ("Gurren Lagann" anime character who I just found out is a human and not a cat)
 29 ___ De Spell ("DuckTales" character voiced by Catherine Tate in the 2017 reboot)
 31 Place for neighborly gossip
 32 Samuel L. Jackson movie that Roger Ebert called the best film of 1997
 34 Adherence to mystic doctrines
 39 Wisconsin city known for kids' overalls
 45 Yiddish gossip
 46 "I gotta go feed the ___"
 47 Hitch in haste
 49 ___-chef
 52 1-800-CALL-___ (bygone collect call service)
 53 "What ___ know?"
 54 DeLuise in many outtakes with Burt Reynolds
 55 Get by, with "out"
 56 ___ EFX ("Mic Checka" hip-hop group)

SUDOKU

Difficulty Level: ★★☆☆
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Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once.

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ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S

FAB	ACRID	FAST
ADE	NOICE	ETHIC
ROAST	BEEP	ROOMS
CRUE	BUTTER	BEEP
RETAG	HRE	TWO
YRS	LULL	ARARAT
	PATIOS	XERS
READ	EMAND	REEP
DEVI	ODIOUS	
ELIXIR	SPEED	LOS
BIL	NEO	DRINK
REDAS	AREEP	OBEY
IVORY	INTOO	BEEP
SEEFIN	TYSON	RYE
DRAC	SAVHI	QEO

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): In her book *Sticks, Stones, Roots & Bones*, Stephanie Rose Bird reports that among early African Americans, there were specialists who spoke the language of trees. These patient magicians developed intimate relationships with individual trees, learning their moods and rhythms, and even exchanging non-verbal information with them. Trees imparted wisdom about herbal cures, weather patterns and ecologically sound strategies. Until recently, many scientists might have dismissed this lore as delusion. But in his 2016 book *The Hidden Life of Trees*, forester Peter Wohlleben offers evidence that trees have social lives and do indeed have the power to converse. I've always said that you Aries folks have great potential to conduct meaningful dialogs with animals and trees. And now happens to be a perfect time for you to seek such invigorating pleasures.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Author Joanne Harris writes, "The right circumstances sometimes happen of their own accord, slyly, without fanfare, without warning. The magic of everyday things." I think that's an apt oracle for you to embrace during the coming weeks. In my opinion, life will be conspiring to make you feel at home in the world. You will have an excellent opportunity to get your personal rhythm into close alignment with the rhythm of creation. And so you may achieve a version of what mythologist Joseph Campbell called "the goal of life": "to make your heartbeat match the beat of the universe, to match your nature with Nature."

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Author Gloria Anzaldúa writes, "I am an act of kneading, of uniting and joining." She adds that in this process, she has become "a creature that questions the definitions of light and dark and gives them new meanings." I would love for you to engage in similar work right now, Gemini. Life will be on your side — bringing you lucky breaks and stellar insights — if you undertake the heroic work of reformulating the meanings of "light" and "dark" — and then reshaping the way you embody those primal forces.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): "Pleasure is one of the most important things in life, as important as food or drink," wrote Cancerian author Irving Stone. I would love for you to heed that counsel, my fellow Crabs. What he says is always true, but it will be extraordinarily meaningful for you to take to heart during the coming weeks. Here's how you could begin: Make a list of seven experiences that bring you joy, bliss, delight, fun, amusement and gratification. Then make a vow — even write an oath on a piece of paper — to increase the frequency and intensity of those experiences.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): At times in our lives, it's impractical to be innocent and curious and blank and receptive. So many tasks require us to be knowledgeable and self-assured and forceful and in control. But according to my astrological analysis, the coming weeks will be a time when you will benefit from the former state of mind: cultivating what Zen Buddhists call "beginner's mind." The Chinese refer to it as *chuxin*, or the mind of a novice. The Koreans call it the *eee mok oh?* approach, translated as "What is this?" Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield defines it as the "don't-know mind." During this upcoming phase, I invite you to enjoy the feeling of being at peace with all that's mysterious and beyond your understanding.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you." Author Anne Lamott wrote that, and now I'm conveying it to you — just in time for the Unplug-Yourself Phase of your astrological cycle. Any glitches or snafus you may be dealing with right now aren't as serious as you might imagine. The biggest problem seems to be the messy congestion that has accumulated over time in your links to sources that usually serve you pretty well. So if you'll simply disconnect for a while, I'm betting that clarity and grace will be restored when you reconnect.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Have you been saving any of your tricks for later? If so, later has arrived. Have you been postponing flourishes and climaxes until the time was right? If so, the coming days will be as right a time as there can be. Have you been waiting and waiting for the perfect moment before making use of favors that life owes you and promises that were made to you? If so, the perfect moment has arrived. Have you been wondering when you would get a ripe opportunity to express and highlight the most interesting truths about yourself? If so, that opportunity is available.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): "I learned to make my mind large, as the universe is large, so that there is room for paradoxes," writes Scorpio author Maxine Hong Kingston. That would be an excellent task for you to work on in the coming weeks. Here are your formulas for success: 1. The more you expand your imagination, the better you'll understand the big picture of your present situation — and the more progress you will make toward creating the most interesting possible future. 2. The more comfortable you are about dwelling in the midst of paradoxes, the more likely it is that you will generate vigorous decisions that serve both your own needs and the needs of your allies.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): "Some people will never like you because your spirit irritates their demons," says actor and director Denzel Washington. "When you shine bright, some won't enjoy the shadow you cast," says rapper and activist Talib Kweli. You may have to deal with reactions like those in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. If you do, I suggest that you don't take it personally. Your job is to be your radiant, generous self — and not worry about whether anyone has the personal power necessary to handle your radiant, generous self. The good news is that I suspect you will stimulate plenty of positive responses that will more than counterbalance the challenging ones.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Capricorn occultist Peter J. Carroll tells us, "Some have sought to avoid suffering by avoiding desire. Thus they have only small desires and small sufferings." In all of the zodiac, you Capricorns are among the least likely to be like that. One of your potential strengths is the inclination to cultivate robust desires that are rooted in a quest for rich experience. Yes, that sometimes means you must deal with more strenuous ordeals than other people. But I think it's a wise trade-off. In any case, my dear, you're now in a phase of your cycle when you should take inventory of your yearnings. If you find there are some that are too timid or meager, I invite you to either drop them or pump them up.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): The people who live in the town of Bazoule, Burkina Faso regard the local crocodiles as sacred. They live and work amidst the 100-plus creatures, coexisting peacefully. Kids play within a few feet of them, never worrying about safety. I'd love to see you come to similar arrangements with untamed influences and strong characters in your own life, Aquarius. You don't necessarily have to treat them as sacred, but I do encourage you to increase your empathy and respect for them.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Your body naturally produces at least one quart of mucus every day. You might not be aware of it, because much of it glides down your throat. Although you may regard this snot as gross, it's quite healthy. It contains antibodies and enzymes that kill harmful bacteria and viruses. I propose we regard mucus as your prime metaphor in the coming weeks. Be on the alert for influences and ideas that might empower you even if they're less than beautiful and pleasing. Make connections with helpful influences even if they're not sublimely attractive.

Homework: What helpful tip might one of your wise ancestors offer you about how to thrive in the coming months? FreeWillAstrology.com

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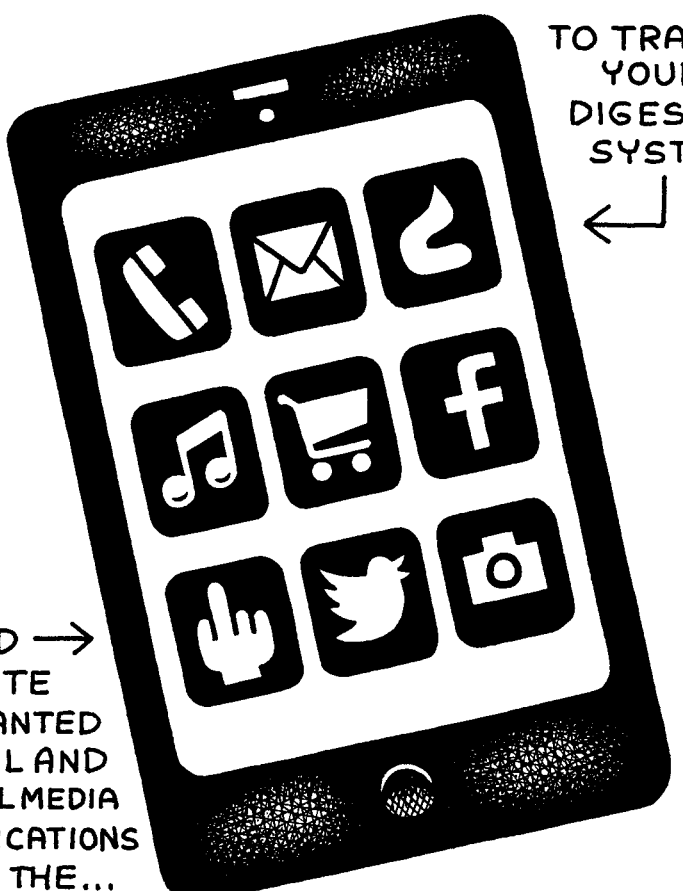


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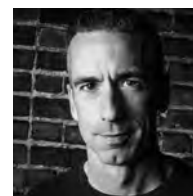
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SAVAGE LOVE

**Stating the
Obvious**
BY DAN SAVAGE



I'm a gay guy who's involved with a guy I met a few months before COVID-19 took off. He's a great guy, smart, funny, hot, healthy and easy to be around. It started as a hookup but we have chemistry on several levels and, without either of us having to say it, we started seeing each other regularly. We both live alone and decided to be exclusive due to the pandemic. I honestly don't know what we're doing here. It's some combination of friends, fuck buddies, and married couple all at the same time. I wanted to just keep a good thing going but he just threw me a curve ball that I need help figuring out how to handle. Out of the blue he told me he held back telling me about his foot fetish. He says he's had very bad experiences with guys who weren't into it. He's been keeping it to himself and looking at stuff online. I'm pretty vanilla and not into it, but I know kinks are a thing for a lot of guys and I'm willing to help out a good guy. I'm a longtime reader of yours, Dan, and being GGG is important to me. So I asked him to tell me what that means and what he wants to do. He wants to massage, wash and kiss my feet and suck my toes. Ok, that's not hot to me, but it's probably doable once in a while. He thankfully doesn't need me to do anything with his feet. But there was more. I can't believe I'm writing this: He asked if I would let him paint my toenails sometimes! WTF? He could barely say it and looked kind of sick after he did. We're both conventional cis men. Neither of us are into fem stuff. He claimed it's not about making me femme. He says it's just a hot thing for him. I know there's no explanation for why people have kinks but do you have any ideas what this is about? I didn't respond at all and we haven't talked about it since. I'm not proud of that. I'm freaked out by this and not sure what to make of it. I don't want to ask him directly if this is the price of admission because that seems too big a price to pay and I really don't want it to be his price.

— **Freaked Out Over Terrific Person's Erotic Revelation Vibe**

From your panicked response, FOOTPERV, you'd think this poor guy wanted to cut your toes off and masturbate while you bled out. Dude. He just wants to paint your toenails—as prices go, that's a very small price to pay for smart, funny, and hot.

Yeah, yeah: you're both conventionally cis and presumably conventionally masculine. Since we'll never know what caused him to have this particular kink—kinks really are mysteries—let's just run with that: He thinks this is hot—or his dick thinks this is hot—because guys like you aren't supposed to have painted toenails and guys like him aren't supposed to paint toenails, FOOTPERV, and this small transgression against gender norms makes his dick hard because it does. While it's not always the case with all kinks, in this instance the most obvious explanation is the likeliest explanation. Moving on...

You say he's a great guy, you say you enjoy being with him, and you say you're a longtime reader. So you had to know that I was gonna say this: buy some fucking nail polish already and leave it on the nightstand where he can see it and let him paint your fucking toenails.

And if you really hate it, FOOTPERV, if it freaks you out to have polished toenails—or if your masculinity is really so fragile it shatters under the weight of toenail polish—then you don't have to do it again. But I also gotta say... as off-the-wall sexual requests go... this is a small ask. If you were claustrophobic and your boyfriend wanted to mummify you, FOOTPERV, or if he wanted to use you as a urinal and you weren't into piss, I would totally give you a pass. Some sexual requests are big asks and the third "G" in GGG ("good, giving, and game") has always been qualified: "game for anything—within reason." Some sexual requests are huge asks, some prices of admission are too steep, and some desires can only be accommodated by people who share them. But this request—what your COVID-19 spouse wants to do to you—is a small ask and a small price, FOOTPERV, in no way comparable to being turned into a mummy or used as a urinal. So smoke a little pot, put your feet on the nice man's lap, and try to take pleasure in the pleasure you're giving.

If I sound a little impatient, FOOTPERV, I apologize. We live in a deeply sex- and kink-negative culture and our first reaction when a partner discloses a kink is often a knee-jerk negative reaction to the idea of kinks at all. In the moment we can fail to distinguish between the big ask/steep price and the small ask/small price. And I hope you can see the compliment this great, smart, funny, hot guy was paying you when he asked. He felt safe enough to share something with you that other guys have judged and shamed him for. Take the compliment, buy the nail polish, pay the price.

I am a 37-year-old female who, almost three years ago got out of a six-year toxic, violent relationship with a man I believe I loved. After I left him for good my life started to improve in so many ways. However, it seems that my once very healthy sexual desires have died. Ever since we broke up I haven't felt any sexual needs or attraction towards anybody. I honestly think there's something wrong with me. I can't even picture myself having intimacy again. A year ago, I went out on a couple of dates with a man younger than me, he was cute and very interested in me but I just didn't feel the connection. I really don't know what to make of this situation. Any advice is profoundly appreciated.

— **Just Another Gal**

Could it be a coincidence? Besides ridding yourself of a toxic and abusive ex—and that's harder than people who haven't been in an abusive relationship often realize and I'm so glad you got away from him—did something else happen three years ago that could've tanked your libido, JAG? Did you go on meds at the time for depression or anxiety? Could an undiagnosed medical condition that came on at roughly the same time create a libido-tanking hormonal imbalance? Did you go on a new form of birth control in anticipation of the sex you'd soon be having with other, better, nicer, hotter, kinder men?

If nothing else is going on—if you aren't on meds for depression or anxiety, if you've had your hormone levels checked and they're normal, if a new form of birth control isn't cratering your libido—then the most obvious and likeliest answer is probably the correct one: three years after getting out of an abusive relationship, JAG, you're still reeling from the trauma. And the best advice is also the obvious advice: find a sex-positive therapist or counselor who can help you work through your trauma and reclaim your sexuality. Even if you were to get your hormone levels checked or adjust your psych meds or switch to a new birth control method, I would still recommend seeing a counselor or therapist.

And even if the thought of being intimate with others causes you stress and makes you anxious, JAG, you can still explore solo sex. You don't have to wait for the right hot young man to come along in order to reconnect with your sexuality. You can read or write some erotica, you can splurge on an expensive sex toy (have you seen the new clit-sucking vibrators?), you can watch or create porn. Really enjoying yourself may be the first step toward enjoying others again.

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